

# activity

FOUR

Here are four widely held expectations from *Foundations*, all from the subdomain Developing a Sense of Self with Others:

- Children begin to work to resolve conflicts positively.
- Children begin to respond to others' feelings, including showing empathy.
- Children begin to develop the ability to distinguish between unintentional and intentional actions.
- Children begin to recognize the classroom as a caring community in which members take care of property, respect the rights of others, and keep one another safe.

Consider this scenario:

Two children are arguing loudly about the blocks. The teacher walks over and tells them to stop fighting, say they are sorry, and go to time out. The teacher then returns to what he was doing.

## **There are better ways to address what happened!**

When children are having a conflict, we often hear adults say, "Say you're sorry." At first listen, there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with that. But does "say you're sorry" really get at helping children learn to resolve conflicts and show empathy? Does time out help develop a caring community? The answer to both questions is "No."

Exercise:

1. Refer to *Foundations* for the Strategies for Early Educators AND Families for the subdomain Developing a Sense of Self with Others.
2. Choose at least three of these strategies that this teacher could use to help children develop the three widely held expectations bulleted above.

NOTE: "Making the Connection – Emotional and Social Development" in the box above lists specific guidelines, standards, objectives, etc., all of which support better practice.